

January 15, 1976

SENATOR LUEDTKE: They won't let me talk again anyway, I have talked two times already.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I don't mind. When there was a provision in Shakesphere about some lady, they said she speaks though she says nothing. So, maybe that is what happened the other two times, so I'm going to give you a shot to say something this time. When you said that the cross-over had caused problems in California, do you have any specifics that you can refer too, or just a generally accepted notion that....

SENATOR LUEDTKE: No, I did not have Governor Reagan in mind, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OK, so when you say that the two party system grew out of the needs of...you said that it grew out of the needs of what?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: The needs of the people to be able to develop a forum for discussion of the issues.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Luedtke do you think that the two party system exists primarily for the benefit and the convenience of the people, or for the benefit and the convenience of the politician.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: I would hope that it would....if you read the principles of the party, I'm not talking about the practice, I'm talking about what party organization should be for, it is for the people, not for the people in the party. Not for the party leaders.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We know what they say, but in fact, are all of the things that the political parties have done for the benefit of the candidate, the politicians, or for the benefit and convenience of the people?

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Obviously you have answered your own question. You heard me say that I was disillusioned with party behavior in many areas, and I don't think that the parties have done a particularly good job. I think that the polls show that. The credibility has gone down, but I say that you don't solve that by walking out on party organizations by saying therefore we won't take part in party organizations. I say the way to do it is to work from within, not from without.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you Senator Luedtke. I think that Mr. Nixon has the same opinion that Senator Luedtke has expressed but Senator Luedtke didn't mean what I am about to say. He got within and almost destroyed the entire thing didn't he. He got his position by working through the political party system. He had the party leaders as co-conspirators in what he was attempting to do, and I won't give it a name. The leaders of the party, had there not been a type party organization, and type of things that he did would not have been done. You needed a tight knit, loyal, if loyal is the word, group of individuals who would carry out these deeds. I lay Watergate at the door of the two party system. As they began to ramify and branch out from investigations of Watergate they found out that the Democrats were on the pay roll of oil companies. I heard this morning, although she denied it, that Senator Jacob Javis